(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government have received requests to develop Rupsi airport in Assam. However, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) through Government of Assam have requested for a Greenfield airport at Kokrajhar. The site identified by the Government of Assam for Kokrajhar airport was not found suitable and the two alternate sites proposed by the State Government are being evaluated by AAI.

(f) The information is being collected from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the concerned Department.

Impact of below zero inflation

†357. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that despite the rate of inflation being lower than zero, the prices of the items of daily use and of general food products are on the rise;

(b) if so, whether Government is making any effective plan to control the prices and the market;

(c) whether the rate of inflation dipping below zero level is not resulting in the contraction of currency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The overall monthly average Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 4.9 per cent in January 2009. It declined to 1.2 per cent and 1.3 per cent in March and April, 2009 respectively, and further to 0.4 per cent (Provisional) in May, 2009. It became negative to (-) 1.4 per cent (Provisional) in June, 2009. Despite fall in overall inflation, for some of the food products and items of daily use like tea and sugar, it continues to remain high on account of lower production, increase in the minimum support prices and growth in demand.

(b) The Government monitors the price situation regularly, with price stability being high on its agenda. Measures taken to contain prices of essential commodities include selective ban on exports and futures trading in food grains, zero import duty on select food items, permitting imports of pulses and sugar by public sector undertakings, distribution of imported pulses and edible oils through the PDS and release of higher quota of non-levy sugar. In addition, the State Governments are empowered to act against hoarders of food items, by holding in abeyance the removal of restrictions on licensing, stock limits and movements of food articles under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955.

(c) and (d) It is difficult to link the fall in WPI inflation as leading to contraction in money supply. Money supply is denoted by Money Stock (M3 - Broad Money). Since changes in Broad Money are impacted by the interplay of various complex monetary and economic variables, no one-to-one link

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

can be ascribed to the inflation measured by WPI and the changes in money stock and currency. In fact, broad money recorded an increase in absolute terms as on July 3, 2009 (latest available data) over June 5, 2009 when inflation entered the negative zone, while the year on year growth remained more or less stable at around 20 per cent even after inflation rate became negative.

Campus selections in IITs and IIMs

*358. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Corporate and multinational companies are making campus selection of students at attractive salaries at Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs);

(b) if so, the details of campus selection made by these companies during 2008 and 2009; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to bring talented persons to public services?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) It is a fact that multinational and Indian private sector companies recruit a substantial number of students of IITs and IIMs through campus selection.

(b) A Statement showing the details of campus selection made by the two kinds of companies during 2008 and 2009 is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Recruitment to public services is done in a very transparent manner through a selection process in which all the relevant attributes of the applicants including their intellectual abilities are evaluated to ensure that the selected candidates are best suited to discharge the functions as would be assigned to them. Besides, the emoluments in the public services have been raised substantially after the implementation of VIth Pay Commission's recommendations so as to attract as well as retain the talented persons in the public services.

Statement

Details of Campus Selection in IITs and IIMs

Sl.No.	Category of the Institute	Year	No. of students recruited through campus selection by	
			Multi National Corporations	Indian Private Sector Companies
1	2	3	4	5
1.	IITs	2008		
		Kharagpur	643	334
		Bombay	593	276
		Guwahati	101	105
		Roorkee	182	193